Attorney Docket No. NEO1P015

AP/2153

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mailstop: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date: 7-25-05

JUL 28 2005

Paul L. Hickman

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Hickman

APPLICATION NO.: 08/810,620

FILED: 02/28/1997

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COMPUTING WITHIN A WIDE AREA NETWORK

EXAMINER: DINH, D.

ART UNIT: 2153

CONF: 9149

**Response to Office Communication**

Mail Stop: Amendement
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA
22313-1450

Sir:

The Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) was mailed on Mar. 31, 2005. An Amendment and Remarks was sent by Applicant with a Certificate of Mailing on May 30, 2005. On June 23, 2005, an Office Communication was sent by the Examiner which would indicate that he had not yet received Applicant's Amendment and Remarks. Attached is a courtesy copy of the Amendment and Remarks, along with a copy of the USPTO receipt for same. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 650-333-0180.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7-25-05

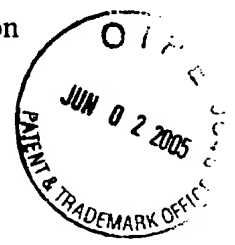
Paul L. Hickman
Registration No. 28,516

**Correspondence Address:**
Customer No. 45,965

Re: USSN 08/810,620 Filed 02/28/1997
Inventor(s) Hickman
For: Method and Apparatus for Computing Within a Wide Area Network
Atty. Docket: NEO1P015 Sent: 05/30/2005

The stamp of the United States Patent and Trademark Office hereon certifies receipt of the following:

1. Amendment and Remarks after BPAI Decision



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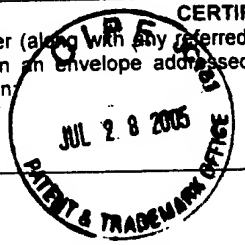


Paul L. Hickman

**PATENT**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:
Hickman
APPLICATION NO.: 08/810,620
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**Amendment and Remarks after BPAI Decision**

Mail Stop: Amendement
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA
22313-1450

Sir:

The Decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) was mailed on Mar. 31, 2005. To date, Applicant has not received any communication from the Examiner with regards to this decision. To expedite the prosecution of this application, Applicant submits this Amendment and Remarks to cancel, with traverse, certain claims that had their rejections affirmed by the BPAI, to rewrite certain dependent claims that had their rejections reversed by the BPAI in independent form, and to change the dependencies of certain dependent claims to allowable claims.

Amendments to the claims start on page 2.

Remarks start on page 8.

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[1]] 8 wherein said plurality of network accessible computers are coupled to said network with a corresponding plurality of communication channels.

3. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[1]] 8 wherein said plurality of network accessible computers also each include volatile memory and data bus controllers.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[4]] 8 wherein said client programs are transmitted to said client computers over said TCP/IP protocol network.

6. (original) A cluster computer system as recited in claim 5 wherein said client programs are Java Applet programs.

7. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[4]] 10 wherein said cluster administration computer is operative to control at least one function of said network accessible computers.

8. (currently amended) A cluster computer system ~~as recited in claim 7~~ comprising:

a plurality of network accessible computers each having a unique address with respect to a network, each including a central processing unit and non-volatile memory, where each of said network accessible computers is coupled to said network, where said network accessible computers implement host computer programs which permit the network accessible computers to operate as host computers for client computers coupled to said network, where a client computer controls the functionality of a host computer after being downloaded from said host computer a client program to run on said client computer that includes the ability to communicate with said host computer program, whereby an input device of said client computer can be used to generate inputs to said host computer, and such that image information generated by said host computer can be viewed in a window of said client computer; and

a cluster administration computer coupled to said network to monitor the operation of said network accessible computers;

wherein said network is a TCP/IP protocol network, and wherein said host computer programs are responsive to keyboards and pointing devices of said client computers as transmitted to said host computers over said TCP/IP protocol network under the control of client programs running on said client computers, said host programs transmitting said image information to said client computers over said TCP/IP protocol network for display in browser windows of browser programs running on said client computers;

wherein said cluster administration computer is operative to control at least one function of said network accessible computers; and

wherein said at least one function is to reset a selected network accessible computer.

9. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[4]] 8 wherein said cluster administration computer is coupled to said network to receive inputs from other computer systems coupled to said network.

10. (currently amended) A cluster computer system ~~as recited in claim~~ [[4]] comprising:

a plurality of network accessible computers each having a unique address with respect to a network, each including a central processing unit and non-volatile memory, where each of said network accessible computers is coupled to said network, where said network accessible computers implement host computer programs which permit the network accessible computers to operate as host computers for client computers coupled to said network, where a client computer controls the functionality of a host computer after being downloaded from said host computer a client program to run on said client computer that includes the ability to communicate with said host computer program, whereby an input device of said client computer can be used to generate inputs to said host computer, and such that image information generated by said host computer can be viewed in a window of said client computer; and

a cluster administration computer coupled to said network to monitor the operation of said network accessible computers;

wherein said network is a TCP/IP protocol network, and wherein said host computer programs are responsive to keyboards and pointing devices of said client computers as transmitted to said host computers over said TCP/IP protocol network under the control of client programs running on said client computers, said host programs transmitting said image information to said client computers over said TCP/IP

protocol network for display in browser windows of browser programs running on said client computers; and

wherein said cluster administration computer serves to coordinate the sharing of at least one local resource by said network accessible computers.

11. (original) A cluster computer system as recited in claim 10 wherein said at least one local source is a data storage device.

12. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[4]] 8 wherein said cluster administration computer is running a cluster administration program which administers the connection of a client computer to a host computer.

13-15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended)A method for providing access to host computers by a client computer over a computer network ~~as recited in claim 15~~ comprising:

receiving a request for a host computer coupled to a computer network from a client computer coupled to said computer network, said request received by a cluster administration computer, wherein the relationship of said host computer to said client computer is to be such that after said client computer becomes associated with a host computer by being downloaded from said host computer a client program that includes the ability to communicate with a host computer program running on said host computer, an input device of said client computer can be used to generate inputs to said host computer, and such that image information generated by said host computer can be viewed by said client computer;

determining a suitable host computer for said client computer by said cluster administration computer, wherein determining a suitable host computer includes receiving the desired requirements for a host computer from said client computer, and comparing said desired requirements to the characteristics of available host computers on said computer network;

informing said client computer of the network address of said suitable host computer by said cluster administration computer, whereby said client computer can become associated with said host computer;

loading a personal state of a client using said client computer into said network accessible computer that will serve as said suitable host computer; and

monitoring the functionality of a plurality of network accessible computers by said cluster administration computer;

whereby monitoring the functionality of a plurality of network accessible computers includes resetting a network accessible computer if it is determined that it is not functioning properly.

17. (previously presented) A computer program product comprising a computer readable media having program instructions embodied on said media for implementing the method of claim 16.

18 - 20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[5]] 8 wherein said cluster administration computer is operative to process a TCP/IP compatible data packet received over said TCP/IP protocol network, where said cluster

administration computer is operative to determine the origin and destination of said TCP/IP data packet.

22. (currently amended) A cluster computer system as recited in claim [[4]] 8 wherein said cluster administration computer is operative to create a list of available network accessible computers.

## REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the decision of the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) dated Mar. 31, 2005. No communication has been received from the Examiner to date. The decision of the BPAI was to sustain the rejections of claims 1-7, 9, 12-15, 18, 21 and 22, and to reverse the rejection of claims 8, 10, 16, and 17. Applicant respectfully traverses the sustained rejections of claims 1-7, 9, 12-15, 18, 21 and 22 and reserves the right to reintroduce these claims and claims of similar scope in continuing applications.

Applicant has rewritten claims 8, 10, and 16 in independent form, and changed the dependencies of certain dependent claims to depend, directly or indirectly, on one of these allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 8, 10 and 16 are patentable.

Claims 1, 4, 13-15 and 18-20 have been canceled without prejudice. The cancellation of these claims is solely for the purpose of expediting the prosecution of the present application, and is without limitation and estoppel.

Claims 2, 3, 5-12, 16, 17, 21, and 22 are currently pending and are deemed to be patentable. Applicant respectfully requests an early Notice of Allowance from the Examiner. Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at 650-333-0180.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05-30-05

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